

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1, 2, 8-17 and 23-32 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Claims 3-7 and 18-22 remain pending under consideration in the present application, all of which are independent.

With appreciation, it is noted that the Office Action indicates (see present Office Action, page 3, item 6) claims 2-7 and 17-22 as containing allowable subject matter.

Noted - Priority Document Received By USPTO

The indication (see Office Action Summary of the Office Action dated September 10, 2008, boxes 12(a)(1) as checked) that the certified copy of the priority document has been received by the USPTO is noted with appreciation.

Noted - IDS Considered

The indication (see attachment to the Office Action dated September 10, 2008) that the Information Disclosure Statements as filed on December 17, 2003 and February 12, 2008 and references listed therein have been considered is noted with appreciation.

Noted - Drawings Approved

The indication (see Office Action Summary of the Office Action dated September 10, 2008, boxes 10(a) as checked) that the Drawings (submitted on November 15, 2004) have been approved is noted with appreciation.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 2 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

PATENT

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Claims 2, 5, 17 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as failing to set forth the subject matter which applicant(s) regard as their invention.

By the foregoing amendments, claims 2 and 17 have been canceled, rendering their rejection as well as the rejection of their respective independent claims 5 and 20 moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Election/Restrictions

Withdrawn claims 8-15, 23-30 and 32 have been canceled as requested in the Office Action at page 3, item 5.

Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejections of record and allowance of this application and pending claims 3-7 and 18-22 therein are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference with the undersigned would assist in resolving any issues pertaining to the allowability of the above-identified application, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below. Please grant any required extensions of time and charge any fees due in connection with this request to deposit account no. 50-4610.

Respectfully submitted,

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